



Leading learning and skills

# Learning and Skills Council Local Area Statement of Need

## Cambridgeshire

## 2008/09

### December 2007

Of interest to everyone involved in improving skills and learning opportunities  
across Cambridgeshire

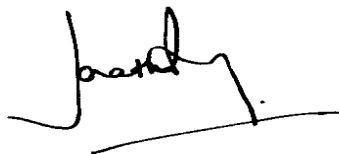
# Introduction

Cambridgeshire, which for the purpose of this document includes the Unitary Authority of Peterborough, has a population of approximately 738,000. Eighty percent of the area is classified as rural; 34% of the population is concentrated in the south of the county and in the environs of the City of Cambridge.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have both rural and urban deprivation with parts of Peterborough in the top quartile of deprived areas nationally. Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire are typified by economic buoyancy based on knowledge-intensive growth sectors. East Cambridgeshire and Fenland are more rural in character, and Huntingdonshire combines growth corridors with rural areas. Peterborough is a major urban area and a focus for regional growth.

Cambridgeshire stands on the threshold of significant demographic growth that will shape the LSC's strategy during the coming years. The Learning and Skills landscape will have to change in order to accommodate the greater numbers of learners produced as a result of rising aspirations and new house building. The sub-regional economies will increasingly demand highly skilled, flexible and educated adults and young people, and it is the learning and skills sector's responsibility to assist in meeting this demand. Individuals are also increasingly aware that successful and vibrant economies are high skilled and high wage economies. It is our task at the LSC to ensure that the infrastructure is in place to offer future and more numerous learners the opportunities that they and the world economy will demand.

We have formed strong links with other Government agencies within Cambridgeshire, including both Local Authorities, to develop a 14-19 strategy to take forward key objectives such as the planned introduction of specialist diplomas. We feel that this is a key strategic relationship which will enable both organisations to plan a curriculum offer that is seamless from pre-16 into post 16. Through economic development we have made strides into working with Investors in Community and Job Centre Plus which has enabled us to plan effectively for the skills shortages that our area has. This has had the result that key LSC targets have been integrated into relevant local action plans and have aided our discussions with our providers in determining that the balance and mix of provision meets the needs of the community.



AREA DIRECTOR  
DATE: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2008

# Challenges, key actions and measures of success for Cambridgeshire

AIM: engagement or re-engagement of all young people in education and training that meets their needs and aspirations.

Cambridgeshire LSC is committed to working with partners to offer appropriate choice of relevant types of provision for 14-19 year olds (-25 year olds for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities) in order to meet the PSA targets covering

- participation,
- achievement of a level 2 qualification by age 19,
- reduction in numbers of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET).

These 3 priorities are currently detailed in the LAA priorities and the Annual Statement of Priorities.

The successful introduction of diplomas will be dependent on close collaborative working facilitated by strong strategic partnerships. In 2008, Creative and Media Diplomas will be offered in Huntingdonshire and Cambridge, with category 3 approval having been gained for the introduction in 2009 of Creative and Media and Society, Health and Development in Peterborough and Construction and IT in Cambridge. Huntingdonshire is planning a gateway application for IT in 2009.

There is a planned increase in the number of apprenticeships, including young apprenticeships, programme led apprenticeships in FE and pre apprenticeships which are being introduced as an FLT pilot by 4 providers in the area, but this is dependent upon provider commitment and capacity.

Participation at age 16 and 17 needs to be increased in line with the government's intentions of raising the age at which young people leave education or training and in order to reduce numbers of young people who are NEET. This will consequently entail an increase in provision, especially at levels 1 and 2. Statistics seem to indicate an unusually high drop out at age 17 and research will be undertaken to inform the actions to be initiated.

However the greatest challenge faced in Cambridgeshire in the short term is the lack of capacity in Peterborough, especially at level 2, linked with the tensions created by growing numbers of minority ethnic new arrivals. In the medium to long term, the planned growth in house building in the Cambridge sub region, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough will have a significant impact on planning and commissioning.

Challenges	Key Actions	Measures of Success
Lack of capacity for level 2 provision exacerbated by inflexible start dates	LID funding allocated to FE colleges to improve progression onto level 2 courses, increase participation at age 17 and to promote flexible delivery.	Increase of 12% in participation rates (17% in Peterborough)
14-19 Partnerships not collaborative or sufficiently strategic in their approach	Funding of partnership manager posts to lead development of local strategy	Improved planning and commissioning of 14-19 provision informed by 14-19 education plan
Insufficient work placements to meet the demand of increased number of apprenticeships	Targeted employer engagement programme, regionally promoted and locally reinforced	Increase of % in apprenticeships
KS4 engagement – insufficient funding for number of places needed and lack of suitable places in provider base.	Work with local authorities to ensure maximum number of SEP places allocated, and with local providers to reinforce importance of programme	KS4 engagement places available throughout Cambridgeshire
Insufficient number of high quality work related learning opportunities to underpin delivery of vocational provision.	Continue to oversee EBLO activities. Increase links with employers	
Following the successful launch of the Area Prospectus, reluctance to implement next stages - CAP and ILPs attached to 14-19 Area Prospectus	After DCSF launch in spring, ensure local and strategic 14-19 partnerships sign up to vision and conduct a thorough self evaluation	
Insufficient provision for LLDD	Work to secure funding for Improving Choices broker	Continuing increase in percentage of in-county placements
Reduction of NEET	14-19 partnerships to focus on actions Arts outreach activity Research into participation rates at age 17	260 young people engaged Increase in participation at 17 from 74% to 80%
Ability to meet the September Guarantee for 16 and 17 year olds	Collaborate with Connexions and 14-19 partnerships to plan and commission sufficient places at levels 1 and 2 and on apprenticeships	

Our challenges and actions are based on our *Regional Review*; a robust strategic analysis of supply, demand and need; as well as ongoing dialogue with key partner organisations.

# Partnership Working

Learning and skills needs to be clearly aligned and directly contribute to neighbourhood planning, local area agreements, employment and skills boards and the Regional Economic Strategy. This is in direct response to Leitch *World Class Skills*; the welfare reform green paper *In Work, Better Off*; the Local Government White Paper October 2006 *Strong and Prosperous Communities* and the Sub National Review. It is important that the opportunities generated by economic development initiatives are realised for individuals and local communities and that the low skilled are supported with flexible and accessible learning provision. This will involve large number of partners including Job Centre Plus, EEDA, GO-East, Local Authorities, Local Strategic Partnerships and Sub-Regional Economic Partnerships.

The following indicates some of the key goals that we aim to achieve in 08/09:

A coherent approach to employer engagement in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough working with key local partners through established or new groups such as the **Peterborough Business Support Group** to develop a detailed profile of the employer landscape.

Retain membership of **LAA reference groups**, to devise and agree a consistent set of meaningful targets relating to skills, 16-19 performance and post 19 skills achievements in the new LAA process.

Contribute to the narrowing of the inequality gaps that exist between the worst and best-off neighbourhoods in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire by securing the maximum levels of funding through programmes such as **Investing in Communities** to deliver step changes to deprived communities in the themed areas of skills, employability and enterprise. This work will be undertaken through membership of the two liC Boards and Sub Groups.

Influence the use of discretionary funds such as ESF, liC and LID to ensure high quality vocational provision to meet demand and need as part of the rollout of specialised diplomas and emerging new sectors. We will do this where school clusters have been targeted to deliver vocational skills to ensure good geographic coverage in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Closer working with **Job Centre Plus** to better integrate our skills and employment agendas including initiatives such as Skills for Jobs, Welfare to Workforce development and Local Employment Partnerships.

Develop a clear vision and priorities for the delivery of an integrated adult skills offer across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire as articulated by the respective Community Strategies and Sub Regional Economic Strategies.

Actively participate in the **ROSE Group**, a Cambridge City Council project to develop a retail gateway. This will target unemployed individuals to gain retail skills and employment. Partners of this group include JCP, Arcade management, LSC and the City Council. This model could be replicated in Peterborough for the new North Westgate development.

Work in a range of partnerships in order to implement the three priorities identified in the DCSF's *14-19 Implementation Plan*, and repeated in the recently published *Children's Plan*, of raising attainment, reforming the curriculum and creating the necessary local infrastructure to deliver it. In Cambridgeshire we are active members of the **14-19 Strategy Group** and its local partnerships – **CAP**, **HSEP** and **Fenland**, which we have supported by funding strategic management posts. While in Peterborough we jointly chair the **14-19 Planning Group** and work with **Team Peterborough**. We regularly attend **Children and Young People's Strategic Partnerships** and their sub committees. We recognise the importance of the 14-19 Area Prospectus in these reforms and chair the **14-19 Prospectus Board**.

### **PCDL**

During the last year Strategic PCDL Partnerships have been established in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire with 4 District Partnerships as a subset in Cambridgeshire due to the diversity of need and provision. This has been a welcome development for the county and has invigorated enthusiasm in community cohesion involving many key stakeholders who are keen to have a voice and positively represent and impact their communities. Moving forward a key objective is to drive the Personal and Community Development Learning reforms. This will be achieved by reviewing PCDL activity both funded and unfunded by Cambridgeshire LSC: consultation with a broader reference group to reduce duplication; develop supply to cater for demand and align resources and funding to ensure that the most disadvantaged are supported. Focus will also be on ensuring quality of provision and value for money.